

§ 8603. Cooperation and coordination in biomass research and development

(a) In general

The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Energy shall cooperate with respect to, and coordinate, policies and procedures that promote research and development leading to the production of biobased fuels and biobased products.

(b) Points of contact

(1) In general

To coordinate research and development programs and activities relating to biobased fuels and biobased products that are carried out by their respective Departments—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture shall designate, as the point of contact for the Department of Agriculture, an officer of the Department of Agriculture appointed by the President to a position in the Department before the date of the designation, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; and

(B) the Secretary of Energy shall designate, as the point of contact for the Department of Energy, an officer of the Department of Energy appointed by the President to a position in the Department before the date of the designation, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(2) Duties

The points of contact shall jointly—

(A) assist in arranging interlaboratory and site-specific supplemental agreements for research and development projects relating to biobased fuels and biobased products;

(B) serve as cochairpersons of the Board;

(C) administer the Initiative; and

(D) respond in writing to each recommendation of the Advisory Committee made under section 8605(c) of this title.

(Pub. L. 106-224, title III, §304, June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 430; Pub. L. 109-58, title IX, §941(b), Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 874.)

AMENDMENTS

2005—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109-58, §941(b)(1), substituted “fuels and biobased products” for “industrial products”.

Subsecs. (b), (c). Pub. L. 109-58, §941(b)(2), (3), redesignated subsec. (d) as (b) and struck out former subsecs. (b) and (c), which related to purposes of the cooperation and coordination and areas of promotion of research and development.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 109-58, §941(b)(3), redesignated subsec. (d) as (b).

Pub. L. 109-58, §941(b)(1), substituted “fuels and biobased products” for “industrial products” in two places.

§ 8604. Biomass Research and Development Board

(a) Establishment

There is established the Biomass Research and Development Board, which shall supersede the Interagency Council on Biobased Products and Bioenergy established by Executive Order No. 13134, to coordinate programs within and among departments and agencies of the Federal Gov-

ernment for the purpose of promoting the use of biobased fuels and biobased products by—

(1) maximizing the benefits deriving from Federal grants and assistance; and

(2) bringing coherence to Federal strategic planning.

(b) Membership

The Board shall consist of—

(1) the point of contact of the Department of Energy designated under section 8603(b)(1)(B) of this title, who shall serve as cochairperson of the Board;

(2) the point of contact of the Department of Agriculture designated under section 8603(b)(1)(A) of this title, who shall serve as cochairperson of the Board;

(3) a senior officer of each of the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Science Foundation, and the Office of Science and Technology Policy, each of whom shall—

(A) be appointed by the head of the respective agency; and

(B) have a rank that is equivalent to the rank of the points of contact; and

(4) at the option of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Energy, other members appointed by the Secretaries (after consultation with the members described in paragraphs (1) through (3)).

(c) Duties

The Board shall—

(1) coordinate research and development activities relating to biobased fuels and biobased products—

(A) between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Energy; and

(B) with other departments and agencies of the Federal Government;

(2) provide recommendations to the points of contact concerning administration of this chapter;

(3) ensure that—

(A) solicitations are open and competitive with awards made annually; and

(B) objectives and evaluation criteria of the solicitations are clearly stated and minimally prescriptive, with no areas of special interest; and

(4) ensure that the panel of scientific and technical peers assembled under section 8606(g)(1)(C) of this title to review proposals is composed predominantly of independent experts selected from outside the Departments of Agriculture and Energy.

(d) Funding

Each agency represented on the Board is encouraged to provide funds for any purpose under this chapter.

(e) Meetings

The Board shall meet at least quarterly to enable the Board to carry out the duties of the Board under subsection (c).

(Pub. L. 106-224, title III, §305, June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 431; Pub. L. 109-58, title IX, §941(c), Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 874.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Executive Order No. 13134, referred to in subsec. (a), is set out as a note under section 8601 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2005—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109–58, §941(c)(1), substituted “fuels and biobased products” for “industrial products” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 109–58, §941(c)(2)(A), substituted “8603(b)(1)(B)” for “8603(d)(1)(B)”.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 109–58, §941(c)(2)(B), substituted “8603(b)(1)(A)” for “8603(d)(1)(A)”.

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 109–58, §941(c)(1), substituted “fuels and biobased products” for “industrial products” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (c)(3), (4). Pub. L. 109–58, §941(c)(3), added pars. (3) and (4).

§ 8605. Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee

(a) Establishment

There is established the Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee, which shall supersede the Advisory Committee on Biobased Products and Bioenergy established by Executive Order No. 13134—

(1) to advise the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the points of contact concerning—

(A) the technical focus and direction of requests for proposals issued under the Initiative; and

(B) procedures for reviewing and evaluating the proposals;

(2) to facilitate consultations and partnerships among Federal and State agencies, agricultural producers, industry, consumers, the research community, and other interested groups to carry out program activities relating to the Initiative; and

(3) to evaluate and perform strategic planning on program activities relating to the Initiative.

(b) Membership

(1) In general

The Advisory Committee shall consist of—

(A) an individual affiliated with the biofuels industry;

(B) an individual affiliated with the biobased industrial and commercial products industry;

(C) an individual affiliated with an institution of higher education who has expertise in biobased fuels and biobased products;

(D) two prominent engineers or scientists from government or academia who have expertise in biobased fuels and biobased products;

(E) an individual affiliated with a commodity trade association;

(F) 2 individuals affiliated with an environmental or conservation organization;

(G) an individual associated with State government who has expertise in biobased fuels and biobased products;

(H) an individual with expertise in energy and environmental analysis;

(I) an individual with expertise in the economics of biobased fuels and biobased products;

(J) an individual with expertise in agricultural economics; and

(K) at the option of the points of contact, other members.

(2) Appointment

The members of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the points of contact.

(c) Duties

The Advisory Committee shall—

(1) advise the points of contact with respect to the Initiative; and

(2) evaluate whether, and make recommendations in writing to the Board to ensure that—

(A) funds authorized for the Initiative are distributed and used in a manner that is consistent with the objectives, purposes, and considerations of the Initiative;

(B) solicitations are open and competitive with awards made annually and that objectives and evaluation criteria of the solicitations are clearly stated and minimally prescriptive, with no areas of special interest;

(C) the points of contact are funding proposals under this chapter that are selected on the basis of merit, as determined by an independent panel of scientific and technical peers predominantly from outside the Departments of Agriculture and Energy; and

(D) activities under this chapter are carried out in accordance with this chapter.

(d) Coordination

To avoid duplication of effort, the Advisory Committee shall coordinate its activities with those of other Federal advisory committees working in related areas.

(e) Meetings

The Advisory Committee shall meet at least quarterly to enable the Advisory Committee to carry out the duties of the Advisory Committee under subsection (c).

(f) Terms

Members of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed for a term of 3 years, except that—

(1) one-third of the members initially appointed shall be appointed for a term of 1 year; and

(2) one-third of the members initially appointed shall be appointed for a term of 2 years.

(Pub. L. 106–224, title III, §306, June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 432; Pub. L. 109–58, title IX, §941(d), Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 874.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Executive Order No. 13134, referred to in subsec. (a), is set out as a note under section 8601 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2005—Subsec. (b)(1)(A). Pub. L. 109–58, §941(d)(1)(A), substituted “biofuels” for “biobased industrial products”.

Subsec. (b)(1)(B). Pub. L. 109–58, §941(d)(1)(C), added subpar. (B). Former subpar. (B) redesignated (C).

Subsec. (b)(1)(C), (D). Pub. L. 109–58, §941(d)(1)(B), (E), redesignated subpars. (B) and (C) as (C) and (D), respectively, and substituted “fuels and biobased products” for “industrial products”. Former subpar. (D) redesignated (E).

Subsec. (b)(1)(E). Pub. L. 109–58, §941(d)(1)(B), redesignated subpar. (D) as (E). Former subpar. (E) redesignated (F).

Subsec. (b)(1)(F). Pub. L. 109–58, §941(d)(1)(D), which directed amendment of subpar. (F) by substituting “2